

29th January 1923]

A.--(a) The maximum strength of the Negapatam Taluk Board is twenty, and under section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, all of them have been appointed by Government for a period of six months. Of the twenty members, thirteen are non-Brahman Hindus.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 650.

*Grant of land to depressed classes in Punkunam village, South Arcot district.*

690 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the information received by Government with reference to question No. 350 put at the meeting of the Council, dated 13th November 1922, regarding darkhast land for Adi-Dravidas in Punkunam, Wandiwash taluk?

A.—The information asked for in question No. 350 put at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th November 1922 is furnished below:—

*Question No. 350.*

(a) Six darkhasts were received from the Adi-Dravidas of Punkunam village from the beginning of 1921 up to 15th September 1922. Five of these were for communal porambores and so they were rejected. In the remaining case, the land which was classed as assessed dry was assigned.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) The Government have been unable to obtain any confirmation of the allegations made.

If the hon. Member gives full details regarding dates and other particulars, further enquiries will be made.

*Government Leper Asylum, Madras.*

691 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government Leper Asylum is to be transferred from Madras to Chingleput;

(b) whether the Board of Health has recommended the construction of thatched huts with mud walls and mud floor washed with cowdung for leper settlement at Chingleput;

(c) whether the Government have approved of the recommendation of the Board of Health; and

(d) whether it is the intention of the Government to hand over the Chingleput leper settlement to Mission management?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The Government have not passed any definite orders on the subject.

(d) The Government have not yet considered any such suggestion.